5838965/2022/SEC-IV-EFS01

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Andhra Pradesh Forest Department – Departmental proceedings initiated against Sri V. Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Forest Range Officer, Wild Life Management, Kaikalur of WLM Division, Eluru of WLM Circle, Eluru under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991 – Imposing a punishment of Five percent (5%) cut in pension for a period of five (5) years – Orders – issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.23 **Dated:06.05.2022**

Read the following:

1)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur, Letter Rc.No.29863/2013/A&DC-3, dated 04.01.2019.
2)Memo.No.EFS01-FRST0FVIG/8/2019-SEC-IV, EFS & T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 13.02.2019.
3)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur, Letter Rc.No.29863/2013/A&DC-3, dated 02.07.2019.
4)Letter No.EFS01-FRST0FVIG/8/2019-SEC-IV, EFS & T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 31.07.2019.
5)From the Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, Letter No.441/DC&C/2019, dated 01.12.2021.

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ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur has informed that the following Articles of Charges were issued to Sri V. Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer, Wild Life Management, Kaikalur of WLM Division, Eluru of WLM Circle, Eluru by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad in Ref.No.29863/2013-P1, dated 20.12.2013, under Rule 20 of A.P.C.S. (CC & A) Rules, 1991:-

Article - 1: "That he exhibited gross negligence and dereliction of duty in protecting Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary and allowed Sri M. Rambabu, S/o Krishna Murthy, R/o Chinamillipadu village to encroach 30 acres resulting in habitat destruction in Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary".

Article – 2: "That he committed gross negligence and dereliction of duty in protection of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary, by allowing encroachers to raise bunds, form illegal fish tanks in Government lands for practicing Agriculture / Pisciculture causing habitat destruction and environmental hazard".

Article - 3: "That he committed gross dereliction of duty and disobedience the orders of superiors to verify and enumerate tanks formed if any in the guise of permissions issued by District Level Committee".

[P.T.O]

Article - 4 : "That he exhibited gross negligence and dereliction of duty by allowing encroachers for formation of fish tank illegally in Pandiripalligudem Village of Kolletikota Beat of Kaikaluru Section near water tank to the extent of 556 Acres in Government Land and caused destruction of habitat and environmental hazard".

Article - 5 : "That he committed gross negligence and dereliction of duty, by allowing encroachers for formation of bunds in the Government lands and allowing for practicing pisiculture / agriculture in Akiveedu and Siddapuram beats without the instructions of the Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management Division, Eluru caused destruction of habitat and environmental hazard".

2. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of Articles of Charges on 07.01.2014 and submitted his explanation on 27.01.2014. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad appointed the Chief Conservator of Forests, Wild Life Management Circle, Eluru as Inquiry Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer, Wild Life Management Division, Eluru as Presenting Officer in Proc.No.29863/2013/P1 (i&ii), dated 16.02.2014, for conducting the regular enquiry. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Wild Life Management Circle, Eluru has conducted the inquiry and recorded the evidences in the case and closed the inquiry on 21.07.2004 but did not submit inquiry findings. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad issued orders in Rc.No.6464/2015/Admin-1, dated 09.04.2015 for winding and merging of Wild Life Management Circle, Eluru with Rajahmundry Circle. Accordingly, the administrative control of WLM Circle, Eluru was taken over by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry Circle, Rajamahendravaram.

3. The Inquiry Officer & Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry Circle, Rajamahendravaram submitted findings in Ref.No.08/2014-M8, dated 31.03.2018, wherein he has concluded that out of (5) Article of Charges, (3) Article of Charges i.e., Article-1, Article-2 and Article-5 are proved and (2) Article of Charges i.e., Article-3 and Article-4 are not proved.

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur has communicated the findings of the Inquiry Officer to the Charged Officer in Ref.No.29863/2013/A&DC-3 (i), dated 21.04.2018, for submission of further defence. The Charged Officer has submitted his further defence Statement on 25.06.2018, wherein there are no new/valid/reasonable points.

5. The Charged Officer has retired from Government service on attaining the age of superannuation on 30.09.2017. Hence, the disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

6. The entire issue has been examined and it has been provisionally decided to impose a punishment of "Five percent (5%) cut in pension for a period of five (5) years", against Sri V. Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Forest Range Officer, Wild Life Management, Kaikalur of WLM Division, Eluru of WLM Circle, Eluru, under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980. Accordingly, a Show-Cause-Notice was issued by the Government to the retired officer duly indicating the quantum of punishment

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vide Memo., 2nd read above through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur. In the letter 3rd above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur has informed that the Charged Officer has submitted his further defence statement, wherein it has been observed that there are no new/fresh/valid points.

7. In the letter 4th read above, the Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission has been requested to obtain and communicate the concurrence of the Commission on the proposed punishment, for taking further action in the matter.

8. In the letter 5th read above, the Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission has stated that the Commission agreed with the proposal of the Government to impose a punishment "Five percent (5%) cut in pension for a period of (5) five years", against Sri V. Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Forest Range Officer, Wild Life Management, Kaikalur of WLM Division, Eluru of WLM Circle, Eluru.

9. After careful examination of the entire matter, the Government hereby order to impose a punishment of "Five percent (5%) cut in pension for a period of five (5) years", against Sri V. Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Forest Range Officer, Wild Life Management, Kaikalur of WLM Division, Eluru of WLM Circle, Eluru, under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

10. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri V. Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Forest Range Officer, Wild Life Management, Kaikalur of WLM Division, Eluru of WLM Circle, Eluru (through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur).
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur. (w.e) (with original record i.e., CCF, Rajahmundry File No.8/2014/M8 containing CF-326 pages)
Copy to:
The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada.
The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada.
The OSD to M (Energy, FES & T, Mines & Geology).
The PS to Special Chief Secretary to Government, EFS & T Department.
SF/SC (Computer No.799244).

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER